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A GOOD BAD GUY
CANADA'S BARRY PEPPER TALKS ABOUT TRUE GRIT {page 23}

FIRST NOTICE

WHO FOUND OUT MARIAH IS HAVING TWINS? DISH {page 40}

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Weekend, December 17-19, 2010
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News worth sharing.

▶ The Leafs' Dion Phaneuf and the Flames' Tom Kostopoulos tangle along the boards last night during the first period of Phaneuf's first game back in Calgary since the trade that sent him to Toronto. The home side won 5-2. Story, page 43.

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flames win long-awaited reunion

Extremists cheer refugee

White-man disguise earns kudos on Islamist website {page 16}

Santa on Santa

Five minutes with jolly St. Nick himself {page 22}

Natural gas line clears key hurdle

▶ Energy watchdog's approval of $16.2B project carries 264 conditions related to areas such as engineering, safety and environmental protection ▶ Environmental group called decision 'a huge step backwards'

The National Energy Board's approval of the long-delayed Mackenzie natural gas pipeline has been heralded as both an economic boon to the people of the North and as an environmental blow to the region.

Northwest Territories Industry Minister Bob McLeod called the decision "an early Christmas present."

"This is an important milestone for a project that could provide significant economic and environmental benefits for the Northwest Territories and for Canada," he said.

The lead partner on the $16.2-billion project, Imperial Oil Ltd. was similarly pleased.

"It's a vital step. It's a significant step. It's a very positive step for the project," said Imperial spokesman Pius Rolheiser.

"But it's only one of a number of necessary steps that need to take place, milestones that need to be achieved before this project could become a reality."

The next step is for the federal cabinet to approve the energy board's decision, after which point the project's backers would need to seek a number of other permits.

The proposed 1,220-kilometre Mackenzie pipeline would carry natural gas from near the coast of the Beaufort Sea in the N.W.T. to southern markets.

Even with the energy board's decision, the pipeline's future is by no means certain, since Imperial Oil has said it won't move on the project until at least 2018.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recommendations

Just under a year ago, a federally appointed joint review panel published a long-awaited report on the environmental and socioeconomic impacts the pipeline project could have on the region.

- That nearly 700-page report concluded that the pipeline's impacts would not be significant — if every one of the its 176 recommendations were followed.
- "On every single count where sustainability is relevant, (the National Energy Board has) rejected it," said Stephen Hazell of the Sierra Club, referring to the JRP report.

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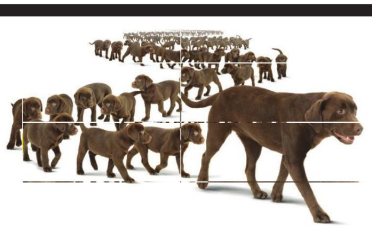

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Parliament wraps for 2010 with parties still jockeying for position. Video at metronews.ca

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Copper theft a concern: Police

Police say thousands of pounds of stolen copper wire found on a residence near Delacour represents a growing theft trend in the Calgary area.

The stolen material discovered Wednesday was valued at $7,500 and taken from a substation near Balzac.

"What we see is as the price rises so does the instance of theft," said Const. Alex Girvin.

Donald Patrick Macaulay faces 38 charges and Lisa Marlene Martin faces 20 charges in relation to the theft ring. Kieran Goldsmith was also charged on 10 outstanding warrants.

Airdrie RCMP Const. Robert Frizzell said copper theft has been a constant problem in rural areas around Calgary, as thieves prey on industrial sites. He said the practice of burning or cutting copper from rubber tubing poses a risk to both thieves and industrial workers.

"If people come to that site assuming that everything's grounded and assuming that everything's in working order, there's definitely some concern for public safety," he said.

Police also seized numerous other items from the property located on Township Road 254, including a dune buggy, ski boat, numerous weapons and small quantities of marijuana.

JEREMY NOLAIS

JEREMY NOLAIS/FOR METRO

▶ Acting Staff Sgt. Carl Verge and Const. Alex Girvin.

MRU celebrates a century of learning

Premier Ed Stelmach and Mayor Naheed Nenshi among the honoured guests at celebration

KATIE TURNER
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

With a big, blue mouthfull of one of Mount Royal University's 100th-anniversary cupcakes, president Dave Marshall explained the importance of the centennial celebration.

"For starters, it's just a good party," Marshall joked.

Marshall, the outgoing president, saw the school through a transition to University.

"I've been fortunate enough to go through a period of transition at Mount Royal," explained the outgoing president. "But it will never change its core and that core is taking care of students."

President of the Students' Union Robert Jones said the day of celebration represented the past, present and future of MRU.

"It really does recognize where Mount Royal has come from and really sticking with the principles of Mount Royal should be and is," he said.

Former faculty member Mayor Naheed Nenshi said he has a lot tied up at the institution.

"One of the things I was a bit sad about in the election is that I wouldn't be here celebrating the centennial with them everyday so I'm thrilled to have been able to be here today."

Kerby

- Mount Royal's founder was Rev. George Kerby.
- MRU shares its centennial with the YWCA as Emily Spencer Kerby, wife of George Kerby, helped to form the organization.

KATIE TURNER/FOR METRO

▶ Mayor Naheed Nenshi and Premier Ed Stelmach examine the 100th-birthday cake in the shape of Mount Royal's original campus known as "The Barn."

High-risk offender released

Calgary police are warning of a high-risk offender released in the city this morning.

Danny Edward Depew has served five-and-a-half years in a federal prison for sexual assault and sexual exploitation. The 43-year-old has a history of criminal convictions dating back to 1992.

Depew is six-foot-three, 160 pounds, with grey hair, blue eyes and a fair complexion.

He will now be monitored by the CPS High Risk Offender Program on a Section 810.2 Criminal Code Recognizance Order for a period of two years.

METRO

18 Danny Depew, right, has 18 criminal convictions dating back 18 years.

News in brief

Nominees needed

CALGARY AWARDS. The City of Calgary is looking for deserving citizens to be nominated for the Calgary Awards. There are a total of 17 awards in five categories including community achievement and environmental achievement. The nomination deadline is Feb. 25 and additional information can be found at calgary.ca/calgaryawards.

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Habitat put on hold

AIRDRIE. Plans for a Habitat for Humanity project in Airdrie have been put on hold indefinitely for financial reasons. The multi-family building would have had 31 units.

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PUBLISHING

Inaugural Zine Fair runs this Saturday

Young publishers will put their finest work on display at Calgary's first Zine Fair on Saturday.

Zines are defined as self-published magazines or pamphlets made by individuals outside of mainstream media.

"You have total control over what you write ... Zines are completely a labour of love," said Samantha Trees, one of 10 writers taking part in the event.

The event will feature an open market to buy or trade zines, and runs from noon to 5 p.m. at the Old Y Centre at 223-12th Ave. SW.

For more information, email thezinetreecollective@riseup.net. JEREMY NOLAIS

For more news, visit metronews.ca

Pair still sought in robbery

Police are still on the hunt for two people believed to be responsible for stabbing and robbing a woman earlier this year.

On March 16, a woman was taken into a stairwell where a man and woman injured her and took her purse.

METRO

Seniors' complex gets funds

The Alberta government announced $6.5 million in grants Thursday to help develop 50 units for seniors at the Bethany Care Society seniors' complex in southeast Calgary.

The funding will cover 60 per cent of the cost for the housing additions.

METRO

Police help drivers lock out car thieves

Efforts aimed at raising awareness about vehicle theft • Thieves' favourite targets include Ford and Dodge trucks, Plymouth vans

JEREMY NOLAIS
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

Hundreds of Calgary motorists got a surprise Christmas gift from police yesterday.

Teaming with the Alberta Motor Association, officers distributed steering wheel locks and memorabilia outlining measures Calgarians can take to reduce vehicle theft around the holidays.

This was the third year police have run the initiative, known officially as Operation Safety Club.

"I think education is a big part of it, trying to get people to lock their doors ... keep all those valuables out of sight or not in the vehicle at all," said Jud Niven, community liaison officer for District 2.

JEREMY NOLAIS/FOR METRO

▶ Community liaison officer Jud Niven provides Linda Crump with a steering wheel lock yesterday.

Michelle Caplan was overjoyed to receive a steering wheel lock while on a shopping trip at Westbrook Mall.

"It was great," said Caplan, who drives a Toyota Camry. "I'm a little bit paranoid about the valuables left in my car. I tend to always make sure I put anything that's of value in the trunk, but even then you still worry that someone's going to get into the car and try to steal it."

The numbers

- A total of 1,400 steering wheel locks were distributed in random locations around the city.
- More than 6,000 vehicles were stolen in Calgary last year.
- Vehicle thefts in Alberta account for roughly $60 million annually in insurance claims.
- About 40 per cent of stolen vehicles recovered by Calgary police are found with the keys inside.

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HOME INVASION

Police seek masked assailants

Police are looking for two men responsible for forcing entry into a southwest home on Wednesday evening.

Around 10 p.m., two men wearing masks forced their way into a home on the 100 block of Strathlea Manor SW and made demands of the two victims.

One of the victims was able to escape and called police.

The culprits are described as Caucasian males between 25 and 30 years old with slim builds.

They were each wearing a balaclava, blue jeans and a dark jacket.

Anyone with information is asked to call 403-420-8787. METRO

No more tests for accused cop stabber

It's been decided that Lee Christopher Monrose, the man accused of stabbing an RCMP officer, will not undergo further psychiatric tests.

Monrose is believed to have attacked RCMP officer Andrew Johnson at the downtown John J. Bowlen Building in June. METRO

Canmore initiates anti-bunny measures

Canmore's rabbit population may be on the verge of decline after the town's mayor locked down $50,000 to quell the bunnies. Reports say Mayor Ron Casey is worried that the thousands of furry animals are attracting predators into the town.

METRO

THE CAMPAIGN BEST SUITED TO 2012 WILL SURELY PREVAIL

Opinion

DJ KELLY

THE SCRUTINEER, WITH ANALYSIS OF CIVIC ISSUES IN THE CITY OF CALGARY

The calendar hasn't even flipped to 2011 yet but the provincial parties are already busy lining up their election plans for an anticipated spring 2012 vote. And the tried-and-true methods for engineering election wins will again be unfurled.

Sure those strategies have worked for many years, but 2012 is going to be an election unlike any Alberta has seen before. Not only do we have a real choice for the first time in 20 years, but how you campaign has changed a lot in the last 40 years. Heck, it's changed in the last two years.

The much-ballyhooed, game-changing Barack Obama electoral campaign of 2008 could not be replicated in 2012. Even in Calgary, Naheed Nenshi's social-media-driven 2010 campaign would not look the same if executed over 18 months' time. It's about the right campaign at the right time. It's something the Progressive Conservatives should be very concerned about.

Over the past 40 years they've gotten very good at campaigning. So good, in fact, it might be impossible to convince them that the strategies they've used in the past will be nowhere near enough to win the next election in familiar landslide fashion. It can even be argued that if the Wildrose Alliance figures out the new realities of 2012 first, the PCs probably won't even win.

What will be different come drop of the writ this time? With each passing month, the electorate becomes more informed and more connected. Be it Facebook or Twitter, or an Internet-capable TV, or media outlets with ears closer to the ground because of new technology, or even just a younger generation weaned on Wikipedia-style accessibility to information, this is a different public than the parties pandered to last time. Whoever best uses these new tools to allow voters to share information will have an upper hand.

These tools also point towards an election being fought on a local level, similar to the way it was done a century ago. With bloggers playing an increasingly important role in provincial political punditry and citizens having the ability to share who they're voting for and why, the story need not be about the leader. It can, and often will, be about the local candidate. Expect to see summer barbecues, community events and neighbourhood councils be the real battleground sin 2012 as candidates get a lot more direct comparative time. The days of provincewide branding, such as with Ralph's Team, are over.

In theory, this should be a boon for the PCs, who have a relatively weak leader, and bad news for the Wildrose Alliance, who in Danielle Smith have a strong one. But the Wildrose probably won't blinded by tradition and may be better poised to take advantage of these new realities.

The premier's chair awaits the party who does just that.

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Does it work? Alberta checks MS treatment

Province to spend $1M on probe of controversial therapy ◐ Liberation procedure praised by many

The Alberta government says it will spend $1 million to track results from people who have travelled out of the country for a controversial multiple sclerosis treatment not currently available in Canada.

Health Minister Gene Zwozdesky said the web-based study will help determine whether the province should proceed with a clinical trial of the so-called liberation procedure, which uses angioplasty to open up twisted or blocked veins in the neck and spine.

The therapy, first done in Italy, remains unproven, but that hasn't stopped MS patients from having the procedure in other countries based on anecdotal evidence that it helps.

Zwozdesky said Thursday he has heard from many people who have seen their conditions improve.

He said: "They would tell you about some overwhelming immediately positive results ...

"They will tell you, in some cases, they weren't able to walk more than a block and now they are walking up to 30 blocks.

"Again, short term maybe, long term hopefully."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New frontier

- Liberation therapy is a new frontier in the search for a cure in the debilitating neurological disorder that has confounded scientists for two centuries.
- The theory is that MS brain complications are caused by poor or obstructed blood flow due to constricted veins.
- Doctors cut small hole in the groin and insert a catheter to open the vein obstruction using a small balloon.

Calgary neurologist seeking answers

There are as many as 13,000 people in Alberta with MS.

Neurologist Tom Feasy, dean of medicine at the University of Calgary, said researchers hope to hear from about 500 of them for the study.

"We are interested in those who haven't had it and aren't going (outside Canada), those who haven't had it but might be going and those who have had it and come back," Feasy said.

"We would like to find out what characteristics the people had that are going for this treatment and are they different then other patients with MS?"

Newfoundland said in September that it is doing an observational study, while Saskatchewan is expected to soon name a research team.

Health Canada is also studying the treatment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ALBERTA GOVERNMENT

▶ Rob Renner

Renner's new take on tires

CHANGES. Alberta is changing its tire-recycling program in an effort to expand and keep tires out of landfills, Environment Minister Rob Renner says.

Industrial and off-road tires will now be included in the recycling program with no increase to the existing fee on car, pickup truck and light-duty vehicle tires. These changes come into effect April 1.

METRO

Man awarded $225,650

PAYOUT. A man who said he was kneed in the groin by a Calgary police officer, has been awarded $225,650.

In September 2004, it's alleged, Const. James Horton inflicted injuries on a 28-year-old man while Horton was investigating a possible break-in in Forest Lawn.

The victim was not a suspect in the incident but called the officer a name. The man was then attacked, it's alleged.

METRO

Bodies found, murder charge

911 CALL. A 49-year-old Nampa man has been charged with two counts of first-degree murder after the discovery of two bodies near Fahler, northeast of Grand Prairie.

Edward John Chomiak is currently in custody.

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Feds want more pension options for Canadians

Liberal critic accuses Flaherty of taking easy way out on pension reform No mention of expanding the CPP

The federal government wants the provinces to sign on to a proposal allowing small firms, employees and even the self-employed to pool resources on new, low-cost pension plans.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has written to his provincial counterparts, asking them to agree to the framework when they meet in Kananaskis, Alta., on Sunday and Monday.

The new plans could be in place by the end of 2011, he said.

Flaherty said creation of what he called "pooled registered pension plans" would address the issue of many Canadians in their 20s, 30s and 40s, who don't regularly sock away enough for their retirement years.

As well, he said, many small and medium-sized businesses which can't afford to establish pension plans for their employees would now be able to offer them.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Finance Minister Jim Flaherty.

"It would make a nice easy way for people to save for their retirement, it would be relatively painless and it would have the professional management (insurance companies) that larger pension plans have," he explained.

The government and provinces have also discussed expanding the Canada Pension Plan, but Flaherty said agreement on that issue would be difficult. Alberta opposes the move and Quebec's intentions are not clear.

Liberal critic Judy Sgro accused Flaherty of taking the easy way out on pension reform.

"This is a baby step ... but it's not going to do much for (many) self-employed, for women that are in and out of the work force, for those in rural Canada. This applies to a very small segment," she said.

Under the federal proposal, the pooled, low-cost plans would be based on defined contributions. It would be available to any type of employee, as well as the self-employed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS.

Scientists surprised by studying asteroid

Scientists analyzing leftovers from an asteroid that harmlessly plunged through the sky in 2008 say there's great diversity in the meteorites recovered.

When the small asteroid 2008 TC3 burned up in the atmosphere, it also scattered meteorite fragments in the remote Sudan desert.

It was the first time that astronomers had advance warning of an asteroid coming. Scientists and students recovered some 600 remnants weighing more than 11 kilograms.The findings were published this week in the journal Meteoritics and Planetary Science.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

10
The fragments contained at least 10 types of meteorites and the chemical building blocks of life.

Baby. Research

THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO-SAINTE-JUSTINE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL RESEARCH CENTRE

Studying a baby's brain

Researchers from the University of Montreal and the Sainte-Justine University Hospital Research Centre applied electrodes to babies' heads to analyze their brain activity.The researchers say a mother's voice will preferentially activate the parts of the brain responsible for language learning.

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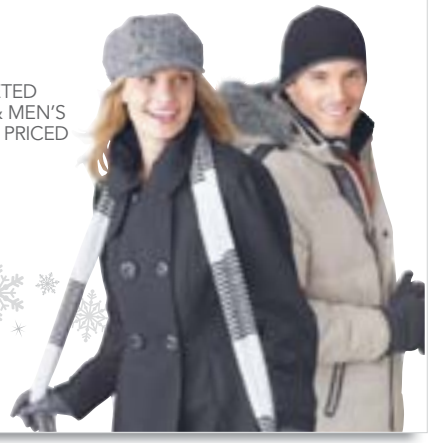

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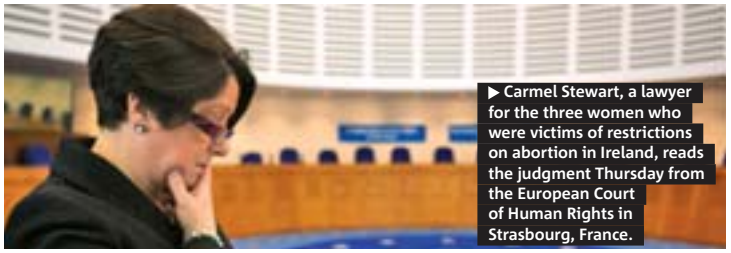

▶ Carmel Stewart, a lawyer for the three women who were victims of restrictions on abortion in Ireland, reads the judgment Thursday from the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France.

Court criticizes Irish abortion ban

European human rights court says Ireland's ban fails to protect women at medical risk

Ireland's constitutional ban on abortion violates pregnant women's right to receive proper medical care in life-threatening cases, the European Court of Human Rights ruled Thursday, harshly criticizing Ireland's long inaction on the issue.

The Strasbourg, France-based court ruled that a pregnant woman fighting cancer should have been allowed to get an abortion in Ireland in 2005 rather than being forced to go to England for the procedure.

The judgment put Ireland under pressure to draft a law extending abortion rights to women whose pregnancies represent a potentially fatal threat to their own health.

Ireland has resisted doing that despite a 1992 judgment from the Irish Supreme Court that said Ireland should provide abortions in cases where a woman's life is endangered — including, controversially, by her own threats to commit suicide.

The 18-year delay has created a legal limbo, forcing many women to travel overseas for an abortion rather than rely on Irish doctors fearful of being prosecuted.

In an 11-6 verdict, the 17 Strasbourg judges said Ireland was wrong to keep the legal situation unclear and said the Irish government had offered no credible explanation for its failure. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Africa. Unrest

▶ A rebel soldier loyal to opposition leader Alassane Ouattara, takes a careful look down a street in Abidjan, Thursday.

SUNDAY ALAMBA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ivory Coast on the brink of a civil war?

Gunfire and explosions shook Ivory Coast's main city Thursday as supporters and security forces loyal to the two men claiming to be president clashed in the streets.

Polygamy harmful: Expert

A political scientist says statistics link multiple marriage to a long list of harms to women and children.

Rose McDermott, who teaches political psychology at Brown University in Rhode Island, testified today at a B.C. Supreme Court reference case examining polygamy that she's conducted a statistical analysis of polygymy — in which a man has multiple wives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Holiday. Spirit

▶ A diver, dressed as Santa Claus, brings Christmas gifts for the fishes at the Sea Life aquarium in Oberhausen, Germany, on Thursday.

MARTIN MEISSNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Just so the fish know it's Christmas

A festive diver is seen in the same aquarium where octopus Paul became the most famous animal oracle of the world. During the World Cup Paul correctly predicted the winners in each round, something football pundits were unable to do. His exploits were featured on major TV stations across the globe.

U.S. plans to step up carp fight

The Obama administration says it will step up efforts to prevent Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes, even though closing Chicago-area shipping locks is off the table. Officials on Thursday outlined the federal government's strategy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PM reacts to drug complaint

Prime Minister Bruce Golding said Thursday he shook up an anti-drug police unit after Cuba complained that the force had been unco-operative in preventing Jamaican drug smugglers using speedboats and small planes to move narcotics.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Loss of contact in space

Russian space officials say they lost contact to the Soyuz spacecraft and the International Space Station for three hours.

The Soyuz TMN-20 blasted off the Baikonur cosmodrome late Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DISTRIBUTION AUDITOR

Metro Calgary is seeking a full-time Distribution Auditor to be a part of our local team.

Reporting initially to the Publisher (and then to the Distribution Manager), this candidate will possess an understanding of distribution concepts and procedures and should be able to analyze operations for efficiency and accuracy.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Review all distribution locations within the city (boxes and dealers) for accuracy and quality
- Review the procedures and efficacy of our distribution contractors and hand-promoters, ensuring they are adhering to Metro's policies.
- Seek and implement new distribution opportunities and locations within the general area

REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION:

- Knowledge of distribution strategies for news/print media preferred
- Strong reporting skills using Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel
- Strong computer and email skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work at irregular hours (some evening work required)
- Assertive self-starter with own vehicle
- An adequate team player with an adaptable attitude

Individuals interested and having the skills described are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than December 17, 2010. PLEASE QUOTE: "DISTRIBUTION AUDITOR - CALGARY" in the subject line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

Years later, will a cheque be in the mail?

- Canada Post and union take fight to Supreme Court
- Pay equity dispute has spanned a generation

It's a legal fight that has spanned a generation, and now the Supreme Court of Canada has decided to settle the landmark $150-million pay equity dispute between Canada Post and its union.

The court will hear the case that has ensnared the Public Service Alliance of Canada, Canada Post and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. The Supreme Court gave no reasons Thursday for granting leave to appeal.

PSAC claimed in August, 1983, that women were being discriminated against under the Canadian Human Rights Act because they made less than men in comparable jobs.

410

The complex case relied on more than a decade of human rights hearings — some 410 working days between 1992 and 2003 — and featured complicated number crunching that compared work done by men and women.

The tribunal compared wages between 6,000 current and former mainly female clerical staff and the predominantly male postal operations group.

After more than a decade of hearings, the tribunal ruled in 2005 that Canada Post had violated the act and awarded back pay and interest of about $150 million.

But this year the Federal Court of Appeal set aside the tribunal's decision, saying the tribunal's finding of discrimination could not be supported.

"The case is profoundly important because it deals with underlying pay equity principles in the federal jurisdiction that have cried out for guidance for some time," said the union's lawyer, Andrew Raven.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Taj. Cake

▶ A woman and her son admire a replica of Mumbai's Taj Mahal Palace Hotel made from five tons of sugar during the annual cake show Thursday in Bangalore, India.

REUTERS

Sweet rendition of the Taj Hotel

The Taj Mahal Palace Hotel was the target of Mumbai terror attacks that killed 166 people. Since it opened in 1903, the hotel has created its own unique history. From maharajas and princes to various kings, presidents, CEOs and entertainers, the Taj has played the perfect host, supportive of their every need. The hotel is an architectural marvel and brings together Moorish, Oriental and Florentine styles.

B.C. man fined $47M for fraud

A B.C. man has been fined a record $47 million for defrauding 36 investors, including members of the Metro Vancouver church he once attended. One investor was Korean.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flawed child welfare?

A government-appointed panel says child welfare in Saskatchewan is flawed and needs fundamental changes to deal with "an explosion" in the number of kids in care.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

14 nabbed in U.S. gang sweep

A gang sweep in Southern California's Orange County has resulted in the arrest of 14 alleged white supremacists on suspicion of extortion, conspiracy and murder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff, at his Stornoway residence in Ottawa.

Canadians ready for an election, Ignatieff says

Change in message suggests party will no longer roll over on confidence votes to avoid an election

Michael Ignatieff says Canadians are ready for an election. And he says the Liberal party is ready, too, despite public-opinion polls that suggest the Grits are hovering around 30 per cent — slightly behind the Conservatives and far from the support levels needed to win a majority.

"We are ready for an election and we think Canadians are ready for an election," the Liberal leader told The Canadian Press in a year-end interview on Thursday.

Over the last two years, Ignatieff has repeatedly justified having Liberals prop up Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority government by stressing that Canadians don't want an election.

But Ignatieff said he changed his mind after hearing from thousands of Canadians during a summer-long, cross-country bus tour and a series of "Open Mike" townhalls throughout the fall. He said Canadians are no longer saying they want to "avoid an election at all costs". "In fact, what I'm hearing and I heard all summer long — and I'm not making this up — was, 'Get rid of the guy' ... There's a lot of impatience, anger and disappointment at this government."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget woes

- Ignatieff stopped short of saying Liberals will deliberately try to pull the plug on the government over its next budget, expected in February or March.
- But he held out little hope it will contain measures needed to win Liberal support, such as a roll back of corporate tax cuts, a halt to the fighter jet purchase and investment in family care.

KITCHENER, ONT.

Robbers disguised in dresses

Three men who robbed an Ontario jewelry store while dressed in women's clothing are being sought by Waterloo Regional Police.

Police say the suspects walked to the back of the Kitchener, Ont., store, smashed display cases and removed an undisclosed amount of jewelry.

A 34-second security video released Thursday shows the three emptying the contents of broken display cases into a handbag and a wheeled suitcase.

The suspects were wearing dresses and head scarves that covered their faces and bodies.

Police say they hope someone can identify the suspects in Wednesday morning's robbery from the security video.

The three fled the store and are believed to have escaped in a silver or grey minivan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Journalists give info context: AP chief

Despite citizen journalism or WikiLeaks document dumps, the mainstream media play a critical role in ferreting out that info and giving it context, the top Associated Press editor said Thursday. Kathleen Carroll said AP reporters have used 1,500 state and federal public records requests each of the past two years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kosovo PM blasts 'scandalous' report

In live TV address, prime minister said he felt 'deeply offended' by allegations of organ trafficking

FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Council of Europe investigator Dick Marty

Kosovo's Prime Minister Hashim Thaci said Thursday that a report suggesting he was the head of a criminal gang behind a grisly trade in the kidneys of slain civilian detainees was "monstrous" and "scandalous."

Thaci, who made his first public appearance since the publication of the report by Council of Europe investigator Dick Marty, said the allegations were aimed at damaging Kosovo's image internationally.

"The world knows who was the aggressor and who were the victims in Kosovo," Thaci said referring to crimes committed by former Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic against ethnic Albanians during the 1998-99 war.

"These tendencies to change history, to equate the aggressor and the victim ... will fail again."

Dick Marty, a Swiss senator, told reporters in Paris that "inhuman" treatment of people and illicit trafficking of human organs in the immediate aftermath of the country's war for independence from Serbia remains unpunished.

2008 Kosovo declared independence in 2008, but Serbia has refused to recognize its sovereignty.

Marty's report, made public Tuesday, alleged that civilian detainees of the KLA rebels were shot to death to sell their kidneys on the black market and suggested that Thaci was once the "boss" of a criminal underworld behind the trafficking.

Thaci dismissed the allegations as "ill-intentioned propaganda," driven by a Serb-inspired agenda to undermine Kosovo's statehood.

Serbia's war crimes prosecutors expressed their "satisfaction" Thursday with Marty's report and added that their investigation of organ trafficking in the region represents "an important source" of the report.

Marty declined to specify how many people were killed for their organs.

"This day is very important for the (Serbian) prosecution because we have been working on this case for a long time."
VLADIMIR VUKCEVIC, SERBIA'S WAR CRIMES PROSECUTOR

Thaci called on Marty to provide facts and evidence to judicial institutions to assist the investigations.

Thaci also said he is to pursue "all possible legal and political action" to counter the allegations in the report.

Earlier Thursday, a top Kosovo official said Thaci is planning to sue Marty for libel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

U.S. will support UN indigenous bill

UN. U.S. President Barack Obama said Thursday that the United States will reverse course and support a United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous people.

The U.S. voted against the declaration when the General Assembly adopted it in 2007, arguing that it was incompatible with existing laws.

Canada, along with Australia and New Zealand, also opposed the declaration, but have since announced their support.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police seize man's guns

WEAPONS CHARGES. Police in Dryden, Ont., have charged a man with weapons offences that investigators say stem from an investigation that started in Manitoba.

Det.-Sgt. Anne Tkachyk said officers seized long guns, handguns, switch-blade knives and high capacity magazines from a home Monday.

She said 71-year-old Robert McGillivray faces 11 charges, including three counts of possession of a prohibited weapon.

McGillivray is due in court Feb. 7.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Is time running out to travel to The Netherlands' marijuana bars? Scan code for story.

Ex-premier dies at 83

OBITUARY. Former Manitoba premier Sterling Lyon has died after a short illness.

Lyon's family said in a statement that he died Thursday morning in Winnipeg's Grace Hospital.

Lyon, who was 83, became Manitoba's 17th premier in 1977 and served one term as head of a Progressive Conservative government.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Free. Tibet

▶ Students lock arms before being detained by Indian police as they protest outside the venue of a speech by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in New Delhi, India, Thursday.

KEVIN FRAYER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tibetans protest Chinese visit

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao is on a three-day trip to India aimed at building trust and strengthening economic links. Wen Jiabao is calling for greater co-operation and friendship with India, brushing over lingering economic and political tensions that mar the relationship between the two rising Asia powers.

Extremist website praises refugee's mask technique

The young Chinese asylum seeker who boarded a plane for Canada disguised as an elderly white man has drawn the attention of visitors to an extremist Islamic website, who have praised the elaborate plan as a potential tactic.

Shumukh al-Islam, an al-Qaida affiliated website meaning Islamic Honour, has an ongoing Arabic-language discussion on the young man's entry into Canada that cites the details of his arrival here.

A forum on the site praised the idea as a tool for "holy warriors."

"This is a great idea that can benefit the mujahedeen," one member, with the name Attique of the North, wrote after the discussion began on Shumukh al-Islam last Tuesday.

The website recently posted pictures and previously undisclosed information of Taimour Abdulwahab, the suicide bomber in Sweden who blew himself up in Stockholm. Abdulwahab's bomb exploded earlier than intended, killing only him and injuring two others. Shumukh al-Islam calls him a martyr, a brother and a mujahed.

On Oct. 18, in a password-protected forum on Shumukh al-Islam, some of its members discussed using the plastic explosive Semtex to travel undetected through airport scanners and checkpoints.

Components of the odourless chemical were later found in parcel bombs destined for the United States. Al-Qaida took credit for the botched plan on the Shumukh al-Islam website.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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195 The number of suspects that face between 15 and 20 years in prison if convicted on charges of "attempting to topple the government by force."

Turkish officers on trial

About 200 active and retired Turkish military officers, including former chiefs of the air force as well as dozens of generals and admirals, went on trial Thursday on charges of plotting to overthrow the Islamic-rooted government in 2003. The military has denied such a plot.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Rain, floods spark Gaspé emergency

Up to 400 homes washed out as rivers, streams breach banks

Quebec's Gaspé region is maintaining a state of emergency after torrential rain caused widespread flooding and forced hundreds of residents from their homes.

The region has been deluged with more than 230 millimetres of rain over the past three days. Several rivers and streams have breached their banks.

Police, fire and emergency crews remain on high alert and continue to help people leave their washed-out homes across the peninsula.

A spokesperson for the town of Gaspé said 300 to 400 homes have been flooded and 125 of those have been evacuated.

Brad McDonald, a spokesman for the town of Gaspé, said no deaths or major injuries had been reported but people are "emotionally shaken up."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The deluge

- **Hard hit:** While much of the flooding is centred on the town of Gaspé, damage extends to the village of Rivière-au-Renard, Que., and the New Richmond region.
- **Aftermath:** Quebec's minister of public security, Robert Dutil, and the region's two provincial MNAs will be announcing details about compensation after surveying the area.

Harper, UN link up to aid women, kids

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is helping oversee a new United Nations group focused on aid for the health of women and children.

The Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health will help countries monitor where and how they spend resources devoted to those two areas. It will also help countries to gather evidence to show which programs work best.

The prime minister made maternal and child health Canada's signature issue at the G8 meetings last summer, announcing Canada would give $1.1 billion to the cause.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Stephen Harper

Man found dead after snowstorm

A 41-year-old man died of exposure in the snowstorm that trapped hundreds of motorists on a southwestern Ontario highway.

The man, whose name has not been released, was found Tuesday afternoon about 50 metres away from his vehicle, which was stuck in a snowdrift. His body and car were found some 75 kilometres away from the scene of a highway closure that trapped 300 motorists in their vehicles.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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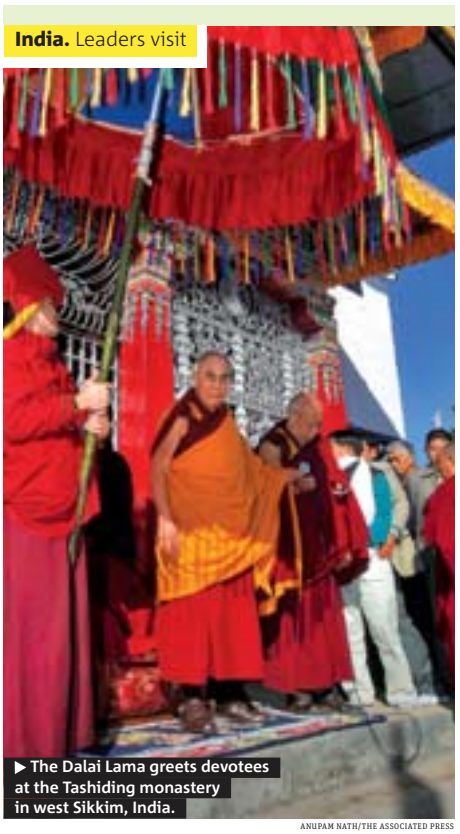
India. Leaders visit



▶ The Dalai Lama greets devotees at the Tashiding monastery in west Sikkim, India.

ANUPAM NATH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protests and prayers

Two leaders — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and the Dalai Lama — converged on India Thursday. The Dalai Lama was beginning a three-day retreat. Wen Jiabao was on a three-day visit and faced protests by Tibetan activists.

Appeal to be heard in Conrad Black suits

The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that it will hear an appeal by Conrad Black's former business associates who argue Black's six libel suits against them should not proceed in Ontario.

Richard Breeden and other defendants in the case have been granted their application to appeal a Court of Appeal for Ontario ruling that found Black's case against them can proceed in the province.

A lower court dismissed the defendants' motion for a stay in 2009, and they appealed the decision, but a court rejected that appeal in August.

Canada's high court will hear the case on March 22.

The former media mogul is attempting to sue members of a special committee of Hollinger International — where Black was once the chairman and CEO — over statements about his use of shareholder money.

The statements were published on the Sun-Times Media Inc. website and republished by many media outlets in Ontario.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Globalive and WIND Mobile chairman Anthony Lacavera says, in 2011, his company will be rolling out products aimed at small and medium-sized businesses.

Wind Mobile gets down to business

Wireless firm wants to be fourth-largest carrier

New wireless company Wind Mobile plans to expand its network and go after small business customers in 2011 as it continues its plans to expand nationally, its chairman said Thursday.

Wind Mobile has been up and running for a year now, with its network running in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Toronto, and Ottawa.

"We're going to be offering a wireless bundle, which includes, of course, the Internet and all of the hosting services — their office Internet and their (businesses) office phone services — in addition to mobile," said Anthony Lacavera, chairman of Wind Mobile.

He noted the "big guys" like Rogers, Bell and Telus are in the business market as well. Lacavera will be able to go after these customers through parent company Globalive's OneConnect, which offers IP and telecommunications services and has more than 6,000 small and medium-sized business customers. Wind is planning to expand in southern and southwestern Ontario as well as broadening its existing network. New markets like Halifax, Winnipeg and St. Catharines, Ont., eventually will be added to the network, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Europe's debt problems weigh on TSX, loonie

The Canadian dollar lost ground to its U.S. counterpart Thursday amid nervousness about Europe's sovereign debt problems. Risk aversion drove investors to the perceived safe haven of the U.S. dollar, which further weakened commodities and other currencies.

The Toronto stock market also was lower Thursday as commodities prices fell back amid a higher U.S. dollar and worries that Europe's sovereign debt problems could hurt demand for resources.

A warning from Moody's Investor Services that it may downgrade Spain's public debt put Europe's debt crisis back to the forefront of investors' concerns. Following Tuesday's similar warning on Belgium from rival agency Standard & Poor's, investors are again nervous that the debt crisis will spread, particularly to Spain, following bailouts of Greece and Ireland.

Lower commodity prices helped weaken the Canadian currency as oil prices fell below $88 US a barrel despite a plunge in U.S. crude supplies last week that suggested demand may be recovering.

The stronger U.S. dollar also helped push the January crude contract on the New York Mercantile Exchange. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Paris tries electric car-share program

After its successful bike-sharing program, Paris is preparing to lend out 3,000 electric cars to fight air pollution. City officials on Thursday chose a bid by French billionaire entrepreneur Vincent Bollore to run Autolib', modelled on Paris' successful, three-year-old bicycle-sharing program, Velib'.

The service will begin by the end of 2011. Tourists will be able to use the service as long as they have a driver's licence recognized in France, meaning U.S. and European visitors should have no problem signing up. An annual subscription will cost €12 ($16) per month, but daily and weekly options will also be available.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. THURSDAY

TSX	Dollar
– 47.84 (13,181.23)	– 0.19¢ (99.41¢ US)

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▶ Santa Claus

5 MINUTES WITH: SANTA CLAUS

Santa Claus arrived at the Chinook Centre on Nov. 26 and will be there until Christmas Eve. He is currently documenting the funny and adorable things kids say "Hi" to in The Santa Diaries on Facebook and Twitter.

So, you're here right until Dec. 24?
I'm here right until Christmas Eve and then, as you know, we've got quite a busy night that night.
When did you start doing The Santa Diaries?
The Santa Diaries came about a few years ago. I started noticing how many children had some very remarkable things to say and I started getting my elves to note some of these things. And last year I took it a little further and this year I have a Facebook page and a Twitter page. I think, as Santa Claus, it's a great privilege to be able to hear a lot of what these children have to say and sometimes it's surprising. It's always heartwarming and a lot of the time it brings me a little laughter. Being that Christmastime is a time for sharing, I just thought that it would be a nice thing to share some of these comments with everybody out there.
Any funny stories that come to mind from this year?
There's so many of them. Just yesterday, one thing that I always ask the children just to make sure they're being honest is have they been a good boy or a good girl this year? And yesterday I had a very, very honest little girl who said, "Santa, I've been a lot of bad and a little bit good this year." Quite adorable. Just because of her incredible honesty I had to forgive right then and there.
Have you had any particularly heartwarming moments?
There's one little girl that comes to mind who visited me about two weeks ago and one thing that I always ask children is what is their favourite thing about Christmas? The answer I generally get is toys or presents, which is perfectly understandable, they're very exciting. But one little girl in particular said, "I love my Christmas dress and I love my mommy and I love my daddy." I thought that was absolutely adorable. That was the best answer I've ever gotten.

KATIE TURNER

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Lump of coal ordered

Letters & Tweets

Re: Paul Sullivan's column, Tired of the entire giving process (Dec. 15)

HALIFAX. At the risk of sounding like you, I am trying really hard to say something constructive about your completely arrogant and ignorant article. I couldn't believe what I was reading.

Of all the bloodsucking corporations or annoying media coverage about Brad Pitt or Miley Cyrus smoking bongs, charities are obviously the most horrible annoyance of them in your opinion. This may surprise you, but these "charitable panhandlers" and charities work very hard to try to give something back to those who are in need.

The true ignorance portrayed in your article comes from the fact that you make the charities seem as if they do nothing for anyone, including yourself.

If you do charity work, what would your fellow charity workers feel like if they read your article? Shame on you for using the amazing gift you've been given to write and be heard, and use it to speak poorly of those that we all need the most, especially this time of year.

A more appropriate article might have been "Why are charity donations down this year, and why people are too greedy to help?" DREW MCQUINN

Bah, humbug!

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

What's your favourite holiday TV special?

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Metro Minute with The Wizard Of Oz

Movie buffs can join Dorothy, the tin man, the lion and the scarecrow as they make their way along the yellow brick road during a screening of Victor Fleming's 1939 classic, The Wizard Of Oz. Presented by Calgary Cinematheque, the show begins at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Plaza Theatre. The film is considered the best-known adaptation of L. Frank Baum's 1900 book, The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz. It has also been credited for being the first Hollywood production to use colour.

Admission is $5 and attendees are also asked to bring a donation for the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank. Visit calgarycinema.org for more information. METRO

Three days to play

IS IT TIME TO GET RID OF THE PENNY, ONCE AND FOR ALL?

Lucie Connelley
CALGARY
It seems a real shame. I like coins, but if they're not being used I suppose it's time.

Rob Abdallah
CALGARY
Yes. To me it's pointless. One hundred pennies for a dollar, who needs a penny? To me, the less change the better.

The IKEA Winter Sale starts tonight with Midnight Madness.

- Actor couldn't turn down the chance to work with the legendary Coen Brothers in True Grit
- Loved the opportunity to film a movie with 'The Dude' Jeff Bridges

▶ Canadian actor Barry Pepper plays the villain Lucky Ned Pepper in True Grit.

Pepper enjoys playing bad guys

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

After first grabbing attention in Saving Private Ryan 12 years ago, Canadian actor Barry Pepper has quietly cultivated a career of guys' movies, including We Were Soldiers, Flags of Our Fathers and his latest, the Coen brothers' take on True Grit.

But he swears the testosterone-heavy resumé wasn't by design. Pepper sat down with Metro to talk about honour among thieves, turning 40 with The Dude and getting his mouth around that Coen brother dialogue.

You seem to do a lot of westerns and war films, movies with male camaraderie at the core. Is that intentional?

No, there's no conscious sort of rhyme or reason to it. This time it was just, "Would you like the opportunity to work with the Coen brothers?" Yeah, absolutely. Just recently my agent called and said, "Terrence Malick would like you to be in his next movie." It's like, "Great. Where do I send the check?" There are certain legendary directors like that — and the Coen brothers are in that pantheon — that you just would do anything for. They're in everyone's sort of Top 10, on every actor's wish list of must-work-with filmmakers.

Your character, Lucky Ned Pepper, is one of the film's bad guys, but he's sort of an honourable villain.

He has sort of this fair-play sense of justice. I think too, back then, it was a simpler Old Testament, eye-for-an-eye world, and there was a simpler sort of code, you know? Westerns tend to overemphasize the ruthlessness of the Old West, but many people were sort of raised and schooled on the King James bible. And that's also why they talked the way they did, I think.

A lot of the dialogue comes straight from the novel, but it feels like something the Coen brothers could have written, doesn't it?

It really does, because a lot of their films really have that quality, don't they? They really create their own world with the language that they use. And you go, "Wow, that's really an oddball choice of words." And yet somehow it works for them. It's like music.

How was working with Jeff Bridges?

For me he'll always and forever be The Dude because that's who he is. He brings a joy to a film set — or really everywhere he goes. People just enjoy being around him.

2 scene

News in brief

Mel Gibson's next movie finally has a release date. Summit Entertainment announced Wednesday that Gibson's comic drama The Beaver will open in limited release next March 23 and expand to more theatres on April 8. The film has been in limbo amid Gibson's custody battle with ex-girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva, who claims he physically abused her. The Beaver is directed by Jodie Foster and stars Gibson as a troubled family man trying to cope with help from an unusual friend — a beaver puppet he wears on his hand.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

50 Cent named in copyright infringement suit filed in NY over 'I Get Money' instrumental beat

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Stiller, De Niro understand difficult in-laws

Third in the Meet the Parents franchise, Little Fockers, shows how the characters' relationship has grown

HEIDI PATALANO
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

▶ Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro star in Little Fockers.

Intensely private but insanely famous actors like Robert De Niro and Ben Stiller tend to greet any question about their private lives with some trepidation, but each has a few solid nuggets of wisdom to offer when it comes to dealing with in-laws.

After all, in addition to each of them being a father-in-law and a son-in-law in real life respectively, the two just had their third go-around for the Meet the Parents franchise, Little Fockers, which is built on the difficulty of maintaining the in-law bonds.

"I haven't told this to my children, but I would if I could think of it," De Niro confesses. "Just look at the parents of the person you're with or interested in and know that you're not only getting into it with them, but also how they behave, how they are and how you have to interact with them for hopefully the rest of your life.

"You're not just marrying the person — you're attaching yourself to the family for better or worse."

Stiller, too, as a son-in-law, notes the ever-tenuous relationship with in-laws that must always be maintained.

"I try to be my best possible self with my father-in-law and I think I'm OK at it but it's definitely one of those relationships where you're aware that the relationship is there, but we're pretty friendly," he says. "I think if you're a good husband, that makes you a good son-in-law."

As for on-screen roles, the two have managed to keep their on-screen dynamic fresh, considering that Little Fockers takes place once Stiller's character and his wife have had twins.

Though Greg Gaylord Focker (Stiller) seems to have had a few years of being on solid ground with his demanding father-in-law, taciturn ex-FBI agent Jack Byrnes (De Niro) we rejoin the family right when that legendary 'circle of trust' might be broken.

"I felt like (it was exciting) to see Jack and Greg's relationship evolve to where Greg's gotten to the point where he's a little more confident in himself and then having to deal with this situation of Jack losing confidence in him and how he reacts differently," Stiller says.

De Niro adds that in contrast to dramatic roles, working on Little Fockers was a chance to loosen up.

"When you're doing comedy I have less restrictions or constrictions," he says. "There's just more room for having fun.

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Aronofsky crafts a gem

Black Swan
Genre: Drama
Director: Darren Aronofsky
Stars: Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis and Vincent Cassel
●●●●●
Darren Aronofsky makes horror movies that pretend they're something else. From Pi to Requiem for a Dream, to The Fountain to The Wrestler, the director's obsessions with delving deep into the grimmest recesses of the human condition coupled with his themes of the body betraying the mind, are as dark as anything explored in the genre.

His latest, Black Swan, is no exception. It's not only Aronofsky's boldest and most visually arresting work, it's also his most downright shocking, with upsetting melodrama matched by swirling, probing camera work and gruesome makeup effects.

Natalie Portman (in the role of her career) stars as a ballerina who is teetering on the edge of sanity. When she is awarded the role of her lifetime in a production of Tchaikovsky's classic ballet Swan Lake, things look bright, that is until another, younger dancer (Mila Kunis) enters her world. Things do not end well.

The film is absolutely one of the best of this year, or any other.

● CHRIS ALEXANDER

Yogi Bear
Genre: Animation
Director: Eric Brevig
Stars: Dan Aykroyd, Justin Timberlake, Anna Faris
●
Dan Aykroyd can't do the voice of Yogi Bear despite getting cast in the role. The fact that the filmmakers couldn't be bothered to find an actor who could handle the iconic voice shows just how little effort was put into this abysmal movie. Not even children were laughing at the preview screening, which had the atmosphere of a funeral. ● PHIL BROWN

How Do You Know
Genre: Comedy
Director: James L. Brooks
Stars: Reese Witherspoon, Paul Rudd, Owen Wilson
●●
In theory, a movie made by writer/director James L. Brooks with a cast including Reese Witherspoon, Paul Rudd, Owen Wilson, and Jack Nicholson should be a romantic comedy classic. Unfortunately, that's not the case. While there are individual scenes that hit the level of belly laughs and emotional resonance, most of the time it lurches awkwardly between tired slapstick and failed attempts at drama. ● PHIL BROWN

The Fighter
Genre: Drama
Director: David O Russell
Stars: Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale, Amy Adams
●●●½
Marketed as a boxing melodrama, The Fighter is actually a delicate character piece. The film is a touching and often hilarious study of a dysfunctional family. Mark Wahlberg stars as boxer Micky Ward who struggled in obscurity throughout the '80s, held back by an overbearing mother/manager (Melissa Leo) and a crack addict brother former fighter (Christian Bale).

● PHIL BROWN

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TRON: Legacy
Genre: Action/Sci-Fi
Director: Joseph Kosinski
Stars: Jeff Bridges, Garrett Hedlund
●●●½
Let's not mince words: Simply put, TRON: Legacy is a cinematic spectacle. A long-awaited sequel to Disney's 1982 hit about a computer whiz (Jeff Bridges) who gets zapped into the digital world he himself creates, this visually-stunning reimagining features his son (Garrett Hedlund) entering "The Grid" to rescue his father two decades later.

● STEVE GOW

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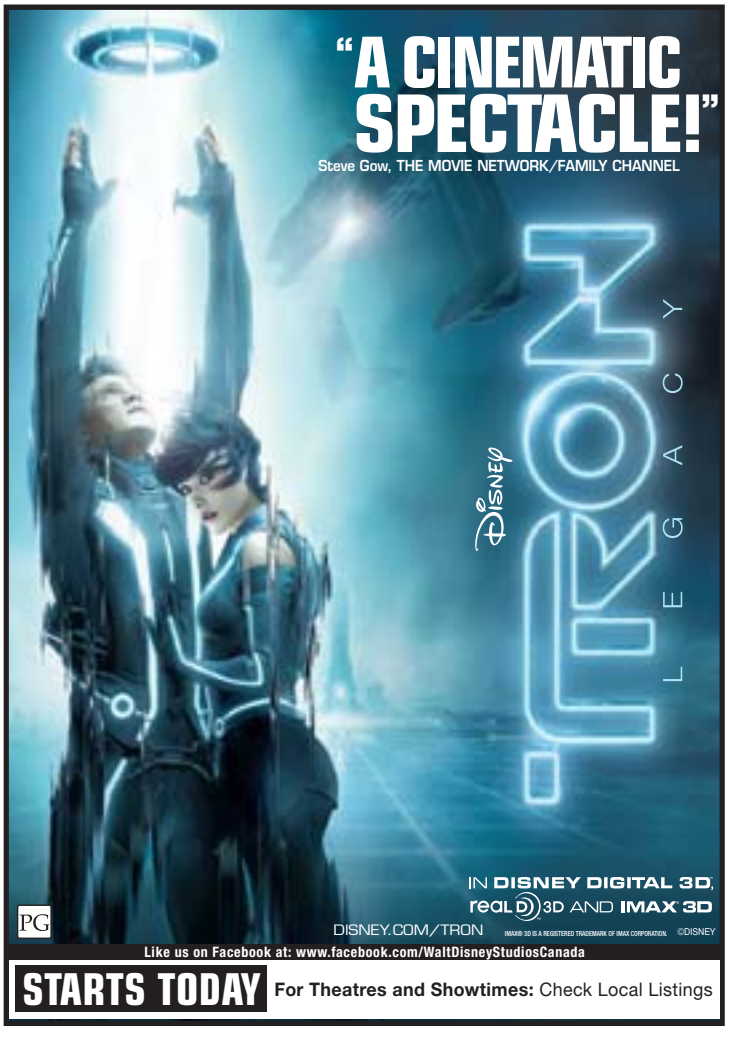

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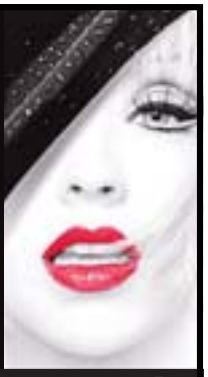

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In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

HOLLYWOOD LOVES A GOOD BOXER

When English boxer Bruno Frank said "Boxing is just show business with blood," he was onto something. Ever since 1937's Kid Galahad entertained depression era audiences, there has been a steady flow of films set inside the square circle. For generations audiences have flocked to the intersection of show biz and blood — the movie theatre — to see films like Gentleman Jim, Million Dollar Baby and, of course, Rocky.

This weekend Mark Wahlberg adds to that list when he stars as pugilist Micky Ward in The Fighter, joining a long line of actors who have strapped on gloves to play real life boxers.

In Resurrecting the Champ, a sports writer thinks a homeless man (Samuel L. Jackson) might actually be a down-on-his-luck boxing legend. Loosely based on the story of Bob Satterfield, a fighter ranked in Ring magazine's list of 100 greatest punchers of all time, it takes some liberties with the real story but makes up for inaccuracies with a great performance from Jackson.

Another flawed boxing movie saved by its performances is The Great White Hope, based on Jack Johnson, a boxer nicknamed the "Galveston Giant." For some reason the names were changed for the movie but the story of Johnson's struggle with racism is brought to vivid life in a towering performance by James Earl Jones who originated the part on Broadway. A 2005 documentary Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson revisited the story, correcting many of the mistakes of the original film.

Somebody Up There Likes Me stars Paul Newman (replacing James Dean who died before filming) as world middleweight champion Rocky Graziano. The fighter is portrayed as a tough kid from New York's "lower East Side where both sides of the tracks were wrong" whose violent and callous ways are changed by the love of a good woman.

As mushy as the love story is — it inspired Sylvester Stallone when he was writing the Adrian storyline in Rocky — the fight scenes are brutally authentic.

Probably the greatest boxing bio is Raging Bull, the story of Jake "Come on, hit me. Harder. Harder" LaMotta, which earned Robert De Niro a Best Actor Oscar. But Cinderella Man, the inspiring true story of James J. Braddock and Gentleman Jim (which sees Errol Flynn playing Jim Corbett, the first heavyweight champion of the world under the new Marquis of Queensberry) is also worth a look.

▶ Robert De Niro in Raging Bull.

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Rush worth a king's ransom

Oscar-winner could be up for another for his work as the man who gives King George VI his voice back

ANNE BRODIE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

He won an Oscar for his portrayal of a mentally challenged piano virtuoso in Shine, was nominated for his role of libertine and pornographer Marquis De Sade in Quills, and again as a theatrical entrepreneur in Shakespeare in Love.

And once again Geoffrey Rush shows off his versatility along with his acting magic in The King's Speech, and rumour has it he'll be nominated again.

▶ Geoffrey Rush stars as Lionel Logue in The King's Speech.

In The King's Speech he plays Lionel Logue, an Australian national living in London in the 1920's who, with no formal medical training, "cured" speech pathologies like stammering.

Logue's most famous patient was Albert, Duke of York who became King George VI (Colin Firth) after his brother King Edward VIII (Guy Pierce) abdicated to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson (Eve Best).

After humiliating himself on a national radio broadcast and several failed attempts at speech therapy, Albert's wife, who would become Queen Elizabeth (and later the Queen Mother), played by Helena Bonham Carter shows up at Logue's office begging for help.

Rush spoke to people who knew the real-life Logue to get a feel for the man.

"The word sympathetic came up over and over again, "He gave me a friend to talk to," says Rush. "There was a great deal of compassion in his work, and in his pastoral care, and in his bed side manner."

But Logue refused to be ruled by protocol and was especially tough on the King.

"He had to push him into a place of slight danger and responsibility for his own well being. I'm not going to let you hide behind this stuff that we have to meet this head on, until you are confident enough to speak," he said.

"There comes the breakthrough when a kind of anger takes you and you say, 'I need to be heard, I need you to listen to me because all my life I've been needing to be heard.' And once that happens, the stammer disappears very quickly."

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LOOK AGAIN

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES IN THESE TWO IMAGES.

Cancun, Mexico – Lovebirds Constance Gonzales and Jose Vergas share a mucho-caliente moment during a seaside siesta, while keeping a close eye to their all-new 2011 Chevrolet Cruze.

CHEVROLET

DON'T JUST DRIVE.
CRUZE
The All-New 2011 Chevrolet Cruze.

1. Orange cup removed from concrete pillar beside violinist 2. Far right tree branch removed 3. Tip of violin bow removed 4. Far left tree branch moved over to right 5. Signal repeater light on Chevrolet Cruze Driver's side is removed 6. Word "Papas" removed from chalk board 7. Third trumpet Piston Valve Casing removed 8. Chevrolet Cruze rear tail light removed 9. Button removed from violinist's jacket 10. Top of the blue fence near the man's head removed

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 17 TO THURS., DEC. 23. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

CANYON MEADOWS
Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

Alpha and Omega (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:7
Despicable Me (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-7:10
Hereafter (PG) Fri-Thu 1:3:35-6:45-9:25
It's Kind of a Funny Story (PG) Fri-Thu 9:45
Jackass 3 (R) Fri-Thu 9:40
Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:40-7:15
Life as We Know It (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-7:05-9:30
Morning Glory (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:30-7:20-9:50
Paranormal Activity 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 9:40
Red (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-7:10-9:45
Secretariat (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-6:50-9:35
The Social Network (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:05-6:40-9:25
The Town (14A) Fri-Thu 9:35
Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (PG) Fri-Thu 3:50
You Again (G) Fri-Thu 1-4:15-6:55

CROWFOOT CROSSING
91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

Burlesque (PG) Fri-Tue 1:10-4-7:15-10:05
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) Fri-Tue 12:20-3:20-7:10-9:50 Wed-Thu 12:20-3:20-7:05-9:50
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:30-10:25
Due Date (14A) Fri-Tue 1-3:40-6:50-9:30
The Fighter (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:30
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Fri-Thu 11:40-3:40-6:55-10:15
How Do You Know (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:10-7:20-10:10
Little Fockers (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-1-3:40-4:10-6:50-7:50-9:30-10:20
Love & Other Drugs (18A) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:35-10:20
Tangled (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-3:50-6:45-9:20
The Tourist (PG) Fri-Tue 12:30-4:10-7:05-9:45 Wed-Thu 12:30-4:10-7:10-10:05
Tron: Legacy 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3:30-7:10
True Grit (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:10-4-7:05-9:45
Yogi Bear 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:30-2:10-4:30-6:40-9:40

EAU CLAIRE MARKET

▶ Georgie Henley, left, Ben Barnes, Laura Brent, and Skandar Keynes are shown in a scene from, The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.

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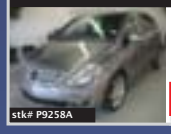


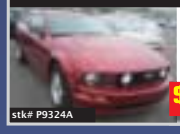
$22,995

Turbo, Heated front seats, power sunroof

stk# P9258A

$213 $0 Down bi-weekly[1]

2007 Ford Mustang GT



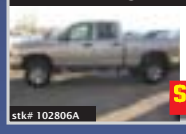
$18,995

300hp 4.6L V8, A/C, Cruise, PW, PL, 43,000km, 5-speed manual

stk# P9324A

$179 $0 Down bi-weekly[1]

2005 Dodge Ram 2500 SLT



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Diesel, Crew Cab, 4x4

stk# 102806A

$287 $0 Down bi-weekly[2]

2010 GMC Sierra 1500 SLE

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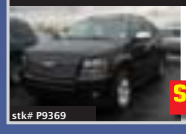
2007 Chevy Avalanche LTZ



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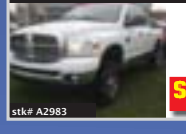

$37,995

6.7L Diesel, Crew Cab, 4x4

stk# A2983

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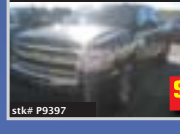
2010 Chev Silverado 1500 LT



$28,995

Crew Cab, 4x4, PW, PL, CD

stk# P9397

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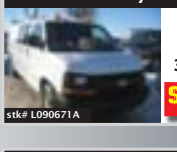

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▶ Angelina Jolie, left, and Johnny Depp star in The Tourist.

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127 Hours (14A) Fri 7:45-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-7:45-10:20 Mon-Tue 1:15-4-7:10-9:30 Wed-Thu 12:30-4-6:40-9

Black Swan (14A) No Passes Fri 7:30-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-4:15-7:30-10:10 No Passes Mon-Tue 1-4:15-7:20-10:10 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:10

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Fri 6:30-9:50 Sat-Tue 12-3:15-6:30-9:50

The King's Speech (PG) Wed-Thu 12:45-3:30-6:50-9:40

Little Fockers (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:15-3-7-9:30

Love & Other Drugs (18A) Fri 7:15-10:30 Sat-Sun 12:15-3-7:15-10:30 Mon-Tue 12:15-3-6:50-9:40

The Tourist (PG) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:30 Mon-Tue 12:45-3:45-6:40-9:20 Wed-Thu 1-3:45-6:30-9:10

Tron: Legacy 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 7-10 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:30-3:30-7-10 No Passes Wed-Thu 12-3:15-7-10

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS
388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

Black Swan (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:30-10:10

Burlesque (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:20-3:20-6:55-9:40

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:15-3:15-6:50-9:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:15-3:15-6:50-9:30 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-3:45-7:20-10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 1-3:45-7:20-10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 1-3:45-7:20-10

Faster (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 2-4:30-7:45-10:15

The Fighter (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4:40-7:25-10:10

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:05-3:30-6:35-9:50

How Do You Know (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:05-9:55

The King's Speech (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:05-3:55-6:50-9:35

Little Fockers (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:50-1:20-3:20-3:50-6:45-7:15-9:15-9:45

No Problem (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:45-4:50-8

Tangled (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:40-3:10-7:15-9:45

Tangled 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-2:40-6:45-9:15

Tees Maar Khan (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 2-4:55-8

The Tourist (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-4:05-7:20-10:05

Tron: Legacy 3D (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10:05

True Grit (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:40-3:40-7:05-9:55

Unstoppable (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:40-4:10-7:40-10:15

Yogi Bear (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3-6:40-9

Yogi Bear 3D (G) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12-2:20-4:40-7:10-9:30

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL
100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

Bolshoi Ballet's The Nutcracker (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 12

Burlesque (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12-3:10-6:40-9:40 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 4:05-6:40-9:40 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 12-3:10-6:40-9:40

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:45

The Fighter (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:45-4:35-7:30-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:30-4:35-7:30-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:45-4:35-7:30-10:15

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-4-8-9:30

How Do You Know (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:10-10

Little Fockers (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1-4:15-7:25-10:10

Megamind (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1-3:20-6:30

Tangled 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-6:45-9:20

The Tourist (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-7:20-9:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 12:40-3:30-7:20-9:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed 12:40-3:30-7:20-9:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:40-3:30-7:20-9:50

Tron: Legacy 3D (PG) Digital Presentation, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:45-7:15-10:30

True Grit (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:40-3:40-7:05-9:55

Yogi Bear 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 11:45-2-4:30-7-9:15

GLOBE CINEMA
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Inside Job (PG) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:30-7:15-9:30 Mon-Tue 7:15-9:30

Made in Dagenham (14A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:20-7-9:20 Mon-Tue 7-9:20 Wed-Thu 3:20-7-9:20

True Grit (14A) Wed-Thu 3:30-7:15-9:30

MOVIEDOME
1039 999 36 St. N.E., 403-248-2000

Alpha and Omega (G) Fri-Thu 1-4

Band Baaja Baaraat (PG) Fri-Tue 9:15

Despicable Me (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55

Life as We Know It (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:55-9:40

Morning Glory (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:45-7-9:45

No Problem (14A) Fri-Tue 2-6:30-8:30 Wed-Thu 9:15

Paranormal Activity 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 7:05-10

Red (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50

Skyline (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:10-10:05

Tees Maar Khan (STC) Wed-Thu 2-6:30-8:30

The Town (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:30-6:45-9:35

You Again (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-6:40-9:55

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK
6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

Black Swan (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-4:05-7:10-10

Burlesque (PG) Fri-Tue 10:30

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) Fri-Tue 12:35-3:45-7-9:55

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:25

The Fighter (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:20

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Fri-Thu 11:30-3-6:45-10:10 Fri-Thu 12:45-4:15-8

How Do You Know (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:30-7:10-10:25

The King's Speech (PG) Wed-Thu 1:20-4:25-7:30-10:30

Little Fockers (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:10-1:3:15-4:20-6:50-7:20-9:50-10:30

Love & Other Drugs (18A) Fri-Tue 1-7:20

Megamind (G) Fri-Sat 12-2:30-5-7:30 Sun 3:15 Mon-Tue 12-2:30-5-7:30

The Nutcracker - Bolshoi Ballet Live (STC) Sun 12

Tangled (G) Fri-Tue 1-3:50-6:55-9:45

Tangled 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:35-2:10-4:45-7:25-10:05

The Tourist (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4-7:15-10:05

Tron: Legacy (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:15-10:15

Tron: Legacy 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:45-3-6:55-10

Tron: Legacy: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20

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True Grit (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:05-10:15

Unstoppable (PG) Fri-Tue 4:15-10:15

WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 6

Yogi Bear (G) No Passes Fri 12-2:10-4:30-7:25-10 No Passes Sat 11:15-1:25-3:50-6:50-9:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 12-2:10-4:30-7:25-10

Yogi Bear 3D (G) No Passes Fri 11:15-1:25-3:50-6:50-9:30 No Passes Sat 12-2:20-4:30-7:25-10 No Passes Sun-Thu 11:15-1:25-3:50-6:50-9:30

PLAZA THEATRE
1133 Kensington Rd. N.W., 403-283-3636

Fair Game (PG) Fri-Tue 4:50-9:15 Wed-Thu 2:50

The Godchild (STC) Sat 3

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Wed-Thu 6:45

Howl (STC) Fri 12:45 Mon-Tue 12:45

I, Don Giovanni (14A) Fri-Sat 7 Sun 2:30-7 Mon-Tue 7 Wed-Thu 12:35

It's a Wonderful Life (STC) Sun 12-1

Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (STC) Sat 11:30 Wed-Thu 9:25-11

The Social Network (PG) Fri 2:30 Mon-Tue 2:30

The Wizard of Oz (STC) Sat 1

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM
2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

Burlesque (PG) Fri-Tue 12:35-3:35-6:55-9:50

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:50-7:10-10:20

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:45-9:35

Faster (14A) Fri-Sat 12:45-3:25-7:20-10 Sun 12:45-3:25-10 Mon-Tue 12:45-3:25-7:20-10

The Fighter (14A) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:15-7:10-10

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Fri 12:10-3:20-6:40-10:15 Sat-Tue 11:45-3:20-6:40-10:15 Wed-Thu 11:45-3:20-6:40-10:20

How Do You Know (PG) Fri-Tue 12:10-3:10-7:05-10:05 Wed-Thu 12:10-3:05-7:05-10:15

Little Fockers (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:15-12:45-2:50-3:25-6:55-7:20-9:40-10

Tangled (G) Fri-Tue 12:15-2:50-6:50-9:30 Wed-Thu 12:35-3:10-6:50-9:30

Tangled 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:20-5-7:40-10:25

The Tourist (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-7:35-10:30

Tron: Legacy (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12-3:05-6:35-9:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 12-3-6:35-9:45

Tron: Legacy 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-7:30-10:40

True Grit (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:40-3:35-7:10-10:05

WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 6

Yogi Bear (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:25-2:45-5:05-7:15-9:40

Yogi Bear 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:55-2:25-4:50-7:25-9:55

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The Fighter (14A) Fri 7:10-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:05-2:25-7:10-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:25

The Next Three Days (PG) Fri 4:30-7 Sat-Sun 11:45-2:05-4:25-7 Mon-Thu 4:25-6:50

Tamara Drewe (STC) Fri 4:50 Sat-Thu 4:50-9:15

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165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) Fri-Tue 12:20-3:10-6:30-9:10

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-7:05-9:45

The Fighter (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-7:30-10:20

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:40-9:50

How Do You Know (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:20-10:10

Little Fockers (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:25-9:55

Love & Other Drugs (18A) Fri-Tue 1:05-4:10-7:40-10:25

Tangled (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:55-6:50-9:20

The Tourist (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:55-10:30

Tron: Legacy 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-7:10

True Grit (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:20-3:10-7:45-10:25

Yogi Bear 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:10-4:30-7:15-9:30

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A VISIT TO THIRD MAN RECORDS

Sound Check

ALAN CROSS
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

A short walk from the honky-tonks of downtown Nashville and tucked next to a Mercedes-Benz repair shop on a non-descript street is Jack White's baby: Third Man Records.

The name is spelled out in art deco letters underneath a sculpture of an old-fashioned microphone on the roof.

Operating under the motto "Your turntable's not dead," Third Man is a combination record label, record store and 150-person performance venue that allow Jack to release the kind of music that he personally likes. The building also includes a recording studio, a rehearsal space and a complete photo studio. It also serves as the global HQ for everything White Stripes.

Although the record label has been running for almost 10 years, Third Man's outlet in Nashville only opened its doors after Jack relocated to the city. It's been in business for two years and has become a must-visit for any music geek who happens to end up in Nashville.

Out front, the store takes up 150 square feet. There's a rack of displayed seven-inch singles and 12-inch releases. But it's the walls and the glass display counter where things get interesting.

There are rare White Stripes and other Third Man releases, all marked "NFS" (Not for Sale) that contribute to the museum-like atmosphere.

The glass case features NFS Jack and Meg White Russian nesting dolls, the Lego set that inspired the Fell in Love with a Girl video and the ultra-limited edition White Stripes turntables (which would be for sale if they hadn't sold out in two hours at $499 each).

I asked the woman behind the counter if they had anything weird and unusual for sale that day — like maybe the very weird "triple decker record" the Dead Weather, the glow-in-the-dark 7-inch singles or maybe the peach-scented release from Jack's wife, Karen Elsen.

"No," she said, shaking her head sadly. "When we announce something like that, we have a line-up around the block and the online orders come in by the thousands. You have to be really quick."

Just as well. By the time I was done (five 7-inch singles, a t-shirt, a 7-inch record case and some special Third Man headphones), I was down $400 in 15 minutes.

It's a good thing I don't live in Nashville.

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AWARD SEASON
FILM

Hollywood's annual pat-on-the-back season is underway, and The King's Speech looks to be a popular favourite. The film, starring Colin Firth, above, has received various nods over the last week, including SAG and Golden Globe nominations.

SALT
DVD

Angelina Jolie's film about a top CIA agent who is accused of being a Russian agent gets its release on DVD and Blu-ray on Tuesday. There are no special features slated for the release, but it is a Jolie action film, so do we really need bonus material?

▶ Paul Giamatti stars in Barney's Version.

TIFF FILMS
MOVIES

Looking for a movie to rent or see over the holidays? The Toronto International Film Festival released its Top 10 picks and it includes Barney's Version, Incendies and Splice.

Others mentioned are Les Amours imaginaires, (Heartbeats), Trigger, and The High Cost of Living. The full list is at tiff.net.

OSCAR SONGS
MOVIES

Avril Lavigne, Justin Bieber, Metric and Alanis Morissette are among the Canadians with songs being considered for an Academy Award. They'll be vying against stars including Cher, Christina Aguilera, Gwyneth Paltrow and Randy Newman whose tunes are also among the 41 songs in the running.

JUSTIN BIEBER
TECH

Curious about just how popular Justin Bieber really is? It turns out the Canadian pop singer was among the Top 10 Twitter trends of 2010.

He also made YouTube's list of the most-watched videos, and was also among the top retweeted-about items. He was beat out, BTW, by Stephen Colbert for the top spot.

ALICE COOPER
FAME

One of music's original shock rockers was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame this week. Alice Cooper received the honour along with Neil Diamond, Darlene Love and singer-songwriter Tom Waits.

The Associated Press reported Cooper's name was mentioned in the past as a possible inductee, but he hadn't been nominated until this year.

JEFF DOUGLAS
RADIO

The I-am-Canadian ranter, who went on to host shows like History Television's genealogy series Ancestors in the Attic, was named the new host of As It Happens on CBC Radio this week. He starts his turn next to co-host Carol Off Jan. 4.

METRO WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mix of Six

Ballet
Broken Social Scene

The Nutcracker is back in Calgary and will be running from Dec. 17-23 at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. Matinees begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and evening shows are at 7:30 p.m.

Music
Calgary Men's Chorus

The Calgary Men's Chorus will be performing ICE: Stories and Music of the Arctic on Saturday in the Rozsa Centre at the University of Calgary. Tickets are $22 and the concert starts at 8 p.m.

Comedy
Bob Saget

Bob Saget is in town this weekend and will be performing at the Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts on Saturday. Tickets range from $49 to $69.

Holiday
Cantare Children's Choir

The Cantare Children's Choir is performing "Celebrate the Seasons" at Knox United Church Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $25.

Film
Christmas At The Movies

Jack Singer Concert Hall will be screening festive films this Sunday with Christmas at the Movies. Tickets are $15 and the event starts at 2:30 p.m.

Country
Carrie Underwood

Carrie Underwood takes the stage at the Scotiabank Saddledome on Sunday beginning at 7:30 p.m. Billy Currington will be the opening act

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Warm Spinach & Artichoke Cups

PREP TIME: 20 MIN ➤ TOTAL TIME: 34 MIN ➤ MAKES: 24 SERVINGS

What You Need
24 won ton wrappers
1 can (398 mL/14 fl oz) artichoke hearts, drained, finely chopped
1 cup *Kraft* 4 Cheese Italiano Light Shredded Cheese
1 pkg. (300 g) frozen chopped spinach, thawed, squeezed dry
1/3 cup *Miracle Whip* Calorie-Wise Dressing
1/4 cup *Kraft* 100% Parmesan Light Grated Cheese
1/4 cup finely chopped red peppers
2 cloves garlic, minced

Make it
HEAT oven to 350°F.
PLACE 1 won ton wrapper in each of 24 mini muffin cups sprayed with cooking spray, with edges of wrapper extending over top of cup.
BAKE 5 min. Meanwhile, combine remaining ingredients.
SPOON artichoke mixture into won ton cups.
BAKE 12 to 14 min. or until filling is heated through and edges of cups are golden brown.

Nutrition Information Per Serving: Calories 35, Total fat 1 g, Saturated fat 0.4 g, Cholesterol 5 mg, Sodium 105 mg, Carbohydrate 4 g, Dietary fibre 0 g, Sugars 1 g, Protein 2 g, Vitamin A 10 %DV, Vitamin C 4 %DV, Calcium 4 %DV, Iron 4 %DV.

THIS WEEK ON THE SHOW – MAKE AHEAD AND FREEZE ➤ whatscookingtv.com

So Sue me: Lynch gets into character

TIFFANY ROSE
METRO WORLD NEWS, HOLLYWOOD

Actress/comedian Jane Lynch still can't believe she has an Emmy for her role as the brutally honest, back talking, Sue Sylvester in the Fox musical comedy Glee.

Metro sat down with Lynch to find out what makes Sue Sylvester really tick.

What do you have in common with your character?
That warrior attitude of being as tough as you can so no one can get to that squishy centre inside. I have an aggressive part of me. I didn't have to dig too deep to find her. I think she's an exaggeration of me. It's that part, "You will not get the better of me!" I love that about Sue.

Sue is a bit of a bully, but what was your own high school experience like?
In high school I played the safe path. In schools in the States there's a really strong hierarchy and I instinctively kept myself under the radar. I had a group of girlfriends who were Pom Pom girls and cheerleaders and some were math nerds, but we all kind of hung together. Then I would go off and sing in the choir and perform in plays, so I did what I wanted to do but I also hung out with the cool kids.

Do you identify with anyone in the cast?
I identify with Jenna who plays Tina, because she's kind of in the background. She doesn't make waves and people don't really know how talented she is until she starts to sing.

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How many tracksuits does Sue own? And are you going to launch your own line?
(Laughs) I'm not going to start designing my own line of tracksuits, although I think that would be a good idea. Note to self! I have about 20 now and they are always making more. The wardrobe stylist would come up to me and ask, "What about this colour tracksuit with this piping?" And I say either yes or no. We have two styles: the one with the high neck and then the crew neck with the zips. I love wearing them, because you are basically getting back into your pajamas when you go to work.

Does your wardrobe help make the character?
Yes, it's like armour for her. She fancies herself a soldier, a warrior type. She knows what works.

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▶ Actress Jane Lynch

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